

Message Text

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14

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 STR-04 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04

USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 PA-01

PRS-01 /103 W

----- 102107

R 120910Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3547

INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 2327

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, KU, TC

SUBJ: KUWAIT PETROLEUM MINISTER VISIT TO ABU DHABI

1. AT SOCIAL FUNCTION NOV 11 MINISTER OF PETROLEUM OTAIBA MADE BRIEF COMMENT TO ME ABOUT KAZEMI VISIT. SAID MAIN PURPOSE KAZEMI COMING HERE WAS TO EXPLAIN LOGGERHEADS IN KUWAIT OIL NEGOTIATIONS AND TO SEEK

UAEG SUPPORT FOR GOK UNILATERAL NATIONALIZATION MOVE. ACCORDING TO OTABIA HE ADVISED KAZEMI AGAINST SUCH ARBITRARY ACTION, POINTING OUT THAT THOSE GOVERNMENTS THAT HAD DECLARED FOR 100 PERCENT OWNERSHIP-- INCLUDING SAUDIS- WERE HAVING SERIOUS DOUBTS ABOUT WISDOM OF SUCH COURSE AND WERE LOOKING AROUND FOR WAYS TO BACK OFF. OTAIBA ALSO SAID

THAT AFTER KAZEMI HAD OUTLINED REASONS FOR IMPASSE IN NEGOTIATIONS OTABIA HAD COMMENTED POSITIONS DID NOT SEEM IRRECONCILABLE AND HAD URGED KAZEMI TO MAKE FURTHER EFFORT TO REACH ACCOMMODATION

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WITH INDUSTRY PARTNERS.

2. OTAIBA ALSO INDICATED RIVALRY WAS UNDERWAY BETWEEN UAE AND KUWAIT FOR ONE OF ADDITIONAL SEATS TO BE ALLOTTED TO PRODUCERS AT DECEMBER ECONOMIC CONFERENCE. OTAIBA THOUGHT OF FOUR ADDITIONAL PRODUCER SEATS TWO WOULD GO TO ARAB STATES, AND OF THESE DISPOSITION WAS TO AWARD ONE TO SMALLER COUNTRY. OTAIBA SAID HE THOUGHT SAUDIS AND QATARIS WOULD PREFER UAE FOR SEAT RATHER THAN KUWAIT.
STERNER

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